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The Case Is Altered. By BEN JONSON. Edited by WILLIAM EDWARD SELIN. Yale Studies in English, LVI. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1917. Pp. lxvi+216.

Like the editions of other plays of Jonson in the Yale Studies, *The Case Is Altered* is well printed and is elaborately edited with introduction, text, notes, glossary, bibliography, and index. Students will welcome especially the reprint of the text from the best copies of the quarto, and the facsimile of the three forms of the title-page. The notes contain valuable quotations and references that help to illumine difficult passages or obscure allusions and to illustrate Jonson's use of Plautus and other sources, but they are marred by gratuitous explanations of simple expressions and allusions and by an encyclopedic massing of information, often elementary and commonplace, on every point that will lend itself to comment. In the introduction the problems of text, authorship, date, literary satire, and sources are discussed. There is no notable contribution to our knowledge of the history of the play, though a somewhat elaborate attempt is made to apply metrical tests in order to solve the problem of authorship.

C. R. B.

British Criticisms of American Writings, 1783-1815. A Contribution to the Study of Anglo-American Literary Relationships. By WILLIAM B. CAIRNS. University of Wisconsin Studies in Language and Literature, Number 1. Madison, 1918. Pp. 97.

After a very brief preliminary survey of literary conditions, 1783-1815, we are here given a statement of the individual attitudes toward America of some two dozen writers and likewise the attitudes of the principal British periodicals. We have twelve pages on "the prevailing British attitude toward the intellectual development of America," and then chapters on the notices of non-literary American writings, of Franklin and Tom Paine, and of the various types of *belles lettres*. Two obstacles stand in the way of perfection in such a study: the fact that we lack first-class bibliographies of American literature of the period and the fact that Professor Cairns has not always had access to complete files of the periodicals consulted. The result is a competent and serviceable but by no means definitive study.

G. S.